

"leave no man behind"—was given new meaning in Southeastern Arizona on May 15 and 16, 2009.

On those dates, 58 American soldiers who died while serving their country were reburied in an emotional ceremony. The flag-draped caskets holding the remains of these soldiers were carefully transported from Tucson to their final resting place at the veterans cemetery in Sierra Vista.

What made this ceremony so poignant was not the journey from one Arizona city to another. This reburial also was a journey through time. These men who once wore the military uniform of our country died between the 1860s and 1880s. Their remains, as well as the remains of four civilians, were unearthed during an excavation project in downtown Tucson.

My hometown has undergone many changes since the late 19th century. Then, Arizona was decades away from becoming a state and our military was nothing like the global fighting force it is today. Yet then and now we adhere to the principle that no soldier who died for his country should be left behind. This principle—like the Constitution these soldiers fought to defend—transcends eras and endures through the ages.

The reaffirmation of this principle would not have been possible without the men and women of the Historical Soldiers' Relocation Project who dedicated their time and energy to make sure our soldiers were given an honorable and dignified burial. These patriotic citizens worked tirelessly to organize a ceremony that would reflect the significance of the occasion. No detail was overlooked, from the Victorian style cemetery to the marble headstones made for each of the deceased. The flag covering each casket was the thirty-five star flag—the flag under which these soldiers once served.

The remains of the soldiers were given every honor we should give all who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. The soldiers were placed among the other honored dead of our military after being escorted by more than 200 veterans on motorcycles from Tucson to their new resting place at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery. I was honored to be a part of this escort.

All of this would not have been possible without the commitment of the members of the Historical Soldiers' Relocation Project. They are: Joey Strickland, Joe Larson, Bob Strain, Larry McKim, Ingrid Ballie, Tom Dingwall, Earl Devine, Col. Bob White, Dr. Randy Groth, Dan Ferguson, Donald Nelson, Paul Weishaupt, Angela Moncur, Bill Hess, Ty Holland, Mike Rutherford, John Clabourne, Lynn Roehsler, Dave Schultz, Jan Groth, Joe Smith, Phil Vega, Stephen Siemsen, Clarence "Shorty" Larson, Timothy J. Quinn, Jim Bellomy, Jacob Loveron, Jeremiah Sprat, Logan Daynes, 1st Sgt. Matthew A. Putnam, LCDR Shannon Willits, SSGT Timothy Diggs, David Schreiner, John Prokop, Roger Anyon, Marlessa Gray M.A. RPA, Dorothy Ohman, Jim De Castro.

I commend them for their work on this important project and for ensuring we rightfully honor all those who have put on the uniform to serve our country.

IN HONOR OF ALBIN GRUHN

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co., where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. Shortly after, a strike resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a lifelong commitment to the labor movement.

Mr. Gruhn was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local, where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

In 1940, Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California's first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission, and various other state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple is survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the re-

marks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: "In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all."

**INTRODUCING THE PROTECT PATIENTS' AND PHYSICIANS' PRIVACY ACT**

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act. This legislation protects medical privacy, as well as quality health care, by allowing patients and physicians to opt out of any federally mandated, created, or funded electronic medical records system. The bill also repeals the sections of Federal law establishing a "unique health identifier" and requires patient consent before any electronic medical records can be released to a third party.

Congress has refused to fund the development of a unique health identifier every year since 1998. Clearly, the majority of my colleagues recognize the threat this scheme poses to medical privacy. It is past time for Congress to repeal the section of law authorizing the Federal unique health identifier.

Among the numerous provisions jammed into the stimulus bill, which was rushed through Congress earlier this year, was funding for electronic medical records. Medicare providers have until 2015 to "voluntarily" adopt the system of electronic medical records, or face financial penalties.

One of the major flaws with the federally mandated electronic record system is that it does not provide adequate privacy protection. Electronic medical records that are part of the federal system will only receive the protection granted by the Federal "medical privacy rule." This misnamed rule actually protects the ability of government officials and state-favored special interests to view private medical records without patient consent.

Even if the law did not authorize violations of medical privacy, patients would still have good reason to be concerned about the government's ability to protect their medical records. After all, we are all familiar with cases where third parties obtained access to electronic veteran, tax, and other records because of errors made by federal bureaucrats. My colleagues should also consider the abuse of IRS records by administrations of both parties and ask themselves what would happen if unscrupulous politicians gain the power to access their political enemies' electronic medical records.

As an OB/GYN with over 30 years of experience in private practice, I understand that one of the foundations of quality health care is the patient's confidence that all information the patient shares with his or her health care provider will remain confidential. Forcing physicians to place their patients' medical records in a system without adequate privacy protection undermines that confidence, and thus undermines effective medical treatment.

A physician opt out is also necessary in order to allow physicians to escape from the inefficiencies and other problems that are sure to occur in the implementation and management of the Federal system. Contrary to the